

What I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent

is:

*Subj* 1. A sign unit which is adapted to be supported with at least a portion exposed to incident light, comprising a sheet-like device (1) with a front (3) exhibiting the information of the sign unit and with a back (4) opposite to the front, and at least one light-emitting member (2) which is arranged on the sheet-like device, characterized in that said light-emitting member (2) has a front end (5) which is positioned at or in front of the front (3) of the sheet-like device (1) and a rear opposite end (6), that said member (2) is made of a fluorescent plastic material and has a thickness which is considerably smaller than its length between said front (5) and rear (6) ends, said member (2) being adapted to absorb, between said ends (5, 6), incident light (13) and conduct this to the front end (5) for emission (26) at the front (3) of the sign unit.

2. A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the sheet-like device (1) has at least one through slot (14), that at least one light-emitting member (2) is arranged in said slot (14), and that said member (2) is included in the information of the sign unit.

*Subj* 3. A sign unit as claimed in claims 1 and 2, characterized in that said light-emitting member (2) is inserted into the associated slot in the

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(continued claim 3)

sheet-like device (1) in such manner that the front end (5) of said member (2) is positioned at the front (3) of the sheet-like device (1) and its rear opposite end (6) is positioned at a considerable distance behind the back (4) of the device (1).

4. A sign unit as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the light-emitting member (2) is a sheet-like element which is straight and/or curved in cross-section.

5. A sign unit as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, characterized in that the light-emitting member (2) is tubular (19).

6. A sign unit as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, characterized in that the light-emitting member (2) comprises a plurality of rod-shaped or bar-shaped elements (12) which are arranged side by side.

7. A sign unit as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the light-emitting member (2) comprises a number of elements in the shape of a sheet (2, 2', 2''), tube (19) and/or rod (12).

8. A sign unit as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the length between the ends (5, 6) of the light-emitting member (2) increases from the upper portion of said member in the mounted state of the sign unit (1) towards the lower portion (6') of the member.

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9. A sign unit as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the edge sides (6-8) of the light-emitting member (2) which are not intended to emit light are provided with emission-preventing means, such as a reflective coating (25), a prismatic body (22), a mirror element or the like.

10. A sign unit as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the portion (10, 11), projecting from the sheet-like device (1), of the light-emitting member (2) is enclosed in a casing (16) which is fixed to said device (1) and which is made of a transparent material.

11. A sign unit as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the casing (16) is coated with a diffusion layer (17) for spreading and leveling the incident light (13) over the entire light-absorbing surface (10, 11) of the light-emitting member (2).

12. A sign unit as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the light-emitting member (2) comprises an inner portion (18) and, surrounding the same, an outer portion (19), and that a light-guiding element (23) with a small degree of attenuation of light is arranged adjacent to and along the outer portion (19) and inside the same, that a first reflective device (22) is arranged at the rear end of the outer portion (19) in order to reflect light from said portion (19) into one end of the light-guiding ele-

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(continued claim 12)

ment (23), and that a second reflective device (24) is arranged at the other opposite end of the light-guiding element (23) to reflect light from the light-guiding element (23) into the other portion (18).

13. A sign unit as claimed in any one of claims 1-11, characterized in that the light-emitting member (2) comprises an inner member (2") and, surrounding the same, outer members (2, 2'), and that the inner member (2") projects from the rear end (6) of the surrounding member/members (2, 2').

14. A sign unit as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that the front end (5) of the inner member (2") is arranged at a distance behind the back (4) of the sheet-like device (1), and that a light-guiding element (23) with a small degree of attenuation of light is arranged between said front end (5) and the sheet-like device (1).

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